

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. The Examiner has carefully considered Applicant's amendments, Rule 1.132 declaration, and remarks filed January 14, 2008. In view of Applicant's response and the present Examiner's Amendment, all previously set forth rejections have been overcome and the Application is now in condition for allowance.

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Denise Glassmeyer on February 4, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

\*\*Please cancel non-elected claims 1-12.

### ***Reasons for Allowance***

3. Claims 13-31 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: while the Tilton et al. (US 2003/0008581) and Thompson et al. (US 5,298,694) references are believed to be the closest prior art, they fail to teach or fairly suggest the limitations set forth in independent claims 13 and 23.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ula C. Ruddock whose telephone number is 571-272-1481. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel H. Morris can be reached on 571-272-1478. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/U. C. R./

/Ula C Ruddock/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794

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